



2007 Marine Debris Grants Program

A special project of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
and the NOAA Marine Debris Program

Introducing the NOAA Marine Debris Program

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (NOAA MDP), created by the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act (33 U.S.C. 1951 et seq.) coordinates, strengthens, and enhances the awareness of marine debris efforts within the agency and works with external partners to support research, prevention, and reduction activities related to the issue of marine debris. The NOAA MDP mission is to support a national and international effort focused on preventing, identifying and removing the occurrence of marine debris and to protect and conserve our nation's natural resources, oceans, and coastal waterways from the impacts of marine debris

Request for Proposal

The Marine Debris Grants Program (Program) provides grants to organizations working on projects to improve our understanding of the impacts of marine debris on our marine and coastal resources, and to reduce and prevent debris in our marine environment. The Program is a special project of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation), a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization established by Congress in 1984. The Program is administered by the Foundation, in cooperation with the NOAA Marine Debris Program.

The Program seeks to support projects that have a strong likelihood of reducing marine debris caused by derelict fishing gear (both commercial and recreational), to increase our understanding of the impacts, location and best methods for removal, and projects that engage marinas, ports and the fishing industry.

The Program provides competitive grants to finance innovative proposals that seek to work with marinas, ports, and the fishing industry to significantly reduce the occurrence of debris in these areas. The 2007 call builds on successful monofilament line recycling projects funding in 2006 through a new partnership called Reel-in & Recycle to prevent recreational gear from becoming marine debris. Technology proposals to test new innovations in gear development to prevent loss or make the gear stop fishing or entangling if lost are also of high priority and strongly encouraged this year.

In addition, the Program is accepting research proposals that address the biological, social, or economic impact of marine debris on species, habitat, and coastal businesses. Proposals that assess marine environments that may serve as "sinks" for debris, examine impacts by debris type to both habitat and species, and that compare costs/benefits of removal efforts are of particular interest to the Program.

See below for specific marine debris focus areas that have been identified for this Program.

Programmatic Focus Areas

1. *Ports, Marinas and Fishing Communities* – Projects that look to create or improve best management practices of ports, marinas, and fishing communities to decrease the threat of marine debris to marine life and/or navigation safety. Project priorities for cleaner marinas, ports and fisheries operations are projects that:
 - Create incentives for marinas, ports, or fishing communities to reduce the introduction of marine debris;
 - establishment of port reception facilities to discard old fishing gear or gear collected in the coastal areas, and to develop alternative disposal/recycling mechanisms (not to include pump-out facilities) (see new "Reel-in and Recycle");
 - develop outreach programs that address marine debris around ports and marinas;
 - improve marina, port, or fishing organizations best management practices for plastics, fishing gear, and other types of marine debris as defined above;
 - create incentives for fishing and boating communities to reduce or remove marine debris.
2. *Gear Technology* – Projects that work with the fishing industry and/or fisheries councils and organizations to develop better solutions to reduce derelict fishing gear in the marine environment. Project focus areas for this type of work are proposals that:
 - work with fishing groups, industry, or manufacturers to improve fishing gear technology that could decrease loss during operations;
 - develop innovative technology improvements to reduce the effectiveness of lost gear (ghostfishing) or promote the use of gear that reduces ghostfishing;
3. *Marine Debris Research and Assessment* – Projects that improve understanding of the sources and impacts of marine debris on marine mammals, sensitive habitats and tourist and fishing industries. Project research priority areas are projects that:
 - conduct research to understand reasons for fishing gear loss and develop methods/recommendations to prevent it;
 - quantify the biological/economic impacts of marine debris on marine species and marine and coastal habitats;
 - estimate the cost of marine debris impacts on navigation, tourism or other marine-dependent industries;
 - use oceanographic data to help model debris location, source, type and/or accumulation rates to target control and recovery efforts;

Proposals must identify which focus area they are addressing, and will be evaluated and selected based on criteria that includes but is not limited to merit, proposal quality, and available funding.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, other non-profits, commercial organizations, and state (including Commissions), local, and tribal governments whose projects have the potential to benefit NOAA trust resources through marine debris research and prevention projects. Applications from federal agencies or employees of federal agencies will not be considered. Federal agencies are strongly encouraged to work with states, non-governmental organizations, national service clubs or youth corps organizations and others that are eligible to apply.

Proposals must link clearly to one of the above focus areas, and clearly define a marine debris problem that applicants are seeking to address and explain how the project will provide measurable benefits for coastal and marine resources. Projects should define a time-line for project implementation. If applicable, successful applicants will be required to provide sufficient documentation in regards to all necessary permits and clearances that the project expects to receive or has received in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and any other federal, state, or local ordinances.

Restrictions

Funds cannot be used for political advocacy, boycotts, litigation expenses, terrorist activities or activities conducted in violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Awards

Approximately \$1,500,000 is available for calendar year 2007. The majority of grants are anticipated to fall between \$20,000 and \$200,000. Larger grants will be reserved for those projects that are structured to definitively answers key research questions or implement projects over a broad scale. Please note that applications smaller than \$10,000 will not be considered for support. A limited number of multi year (up to 3 years) grants will be awarded to exemplary projects that demonstrate a clear need and/or added value for the extended period.

Matching Funds

Matching funds are not required under this program; however, they are strongly encouraged. Proposals that can demonstrate at least a 1:1 match will be most competitive. To qualify, matching funds must be non-federal in origin and used directly for the project over the life of the grant (do not need to be in hand at the time of the application). Matching funds can be cash, in-kind or volunteer services. More information on match can be found by visiting the links in the application.

How to Apply

Submit a pre-proposal via the Foundation's on-line pre-proposal application by **May 18, 2007**. Upon receipt and competitive evaluation of the pre-proposal, the Foundation will invite successful applicants to submit a full proposal. Applicants will be notified by **June 1, 2007** as to

the status of their preliminary applications and whether they are invited to submit a full proposal. Awards for this program are scheduled to be announced in **early October**.

Additional Questions

You are encouraged to contact Michelle Pico via email at pico@nfwf.org or by phone at 262-567-0601 to discuss project ideas or any additional questions on the priorities of this Program.